

PACIFIC ISLAND COMMITTEE WELL CHOSEN



SENATOR J. F. SHAFROTH OF COLORADO

Selected as chairman of the senate committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico, which handles Hawaiian business in the upper house at Washington.

By Ernest G. Walker.

(Mail Special to The Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Democrats have made up a good committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico, which handles Hawaiian business in the senate. With the reorganization just announced, Senator John F. Shafroth, of Colorado, becomes chairman there. As an old and seasoned legislator who served several years in the house and has kept more or less familiar with public questions, Senator Shafroth, until recently governor of his home State, should be able to prove himself an acceptable legislator for Hawaii.

There are some radical Democrats on that committee, men like Senator James of Kentucky, and Senator Vandaman of Mississippi, but these are balanced by more careful Democrats, like Senator Fletcher of Florida, and Senators Pittman and Saulsbury of Delaware. It will be noticed that nearly all are new Democrats in the senate. Senator Fletcher is an exception. The Republican membership of the committee is altogether good, including Clapp of Minnesota, Fall of New Mexico, Burleigh of Maine, and Goff of West Virginia. The last two can be counted upon as conservative men, likely to be friendly to the Islands.

There is no immediate prospect of legislation in congress affecting Hawaii, outside of the tariff. There is much discussion about taking up other topics but the policy with reference to that will be determined later on when some of the troubles about the tariff bill have been disposed of.

Nominations in April.

No recent word comes about filling the Hawaiian federal offices, but presumably these will have consideration along in April. Nominations can hardly be expected now till after the extra session of congress assemblies. The President's policy clearly is to withhold patronage till after congress has disposed of some legislation that he wants, but that need not necessarily apply to Hawaii, because Hawaii has no votes in either branch of congress.

Well Under Way.

While President Wilson has been setting his official house in order, like proceedings have been under way on Capitol Hill. The President is well under way. His remarkable progress, tactfully accomplished, is a theme on every political tongue in Washington. He has much yet to do, however, for it was a big undertaking. But there are yet several days before he encounters legislative responsibilities as the extra session of congress assemblies.

Capitol Hill has been anticipating its responsibilities. Organization and reorganization is important in that connection. The new Sixty-third Congress has met these responsibilities promptly and, from all the outward signs, has done wisely. Of course the Democratic house had far less to do. But its Democratic members caucused the very day after inauguration, renominated Speaker Clark, designated Democratic members of ways and means, and adjourned. These selections and others, which need not be mentioned, will be speedily ratified the first day of the extra session. Meanwhile the ways and means Democrats have gone ahead industriously with framing the tariff bill, so that with no appreciable delay the house can take up tariff revision. This should give the country an example of businesslike expedition, which, however, will not be without ample deliberation.

Organization Complete.

There will be no wrangles over organization to distract the house in early April. It will be likewise with the senate. Organization there was no small undertaking, as the Democratic party was taking over control of the senate. Instead of interjecting petty quarrels, incident to that work, into the regular session, the senate Democrats have now put it all behind them. Their organization is now complete. Officers have been selected and installed; committee assignments have been made. The new chairmen will have moved in and taken possession and senators, who did not get what they wanted, will have had time to forget their grievances.

In all its general aspects a better planned program could not have been. Everything is in readiness for the work of the extra session and that applies to both ends of the Capitol. Meanwhile Democrats in congress have been giving thought to the larger problems, which must be grappled with later on. But minor business having been disposed of, there is freedom from little entanglements and all can proceed to do their very best. Naturally there are many contentions ahead but a general spirit of cooperation prevails and all in all the aspect of things is auspicious.

It is emphasized by willingness to acquiesce in what President Wilson desires.

SILVER TONGUE WINS THE SENATE

METZGER'S ELOQUENT WORDS WOULD MAKE BOOK FOR TOURISTS.

Senator Metzger is living up to the early prophecies of his friends, for with a resolute majority of the land committee against him and an indifferent and pre-occupied senate all but pledged in opposition, he won his fight for the adoption of his minority report on Senate Bill 54, providing for an appropriation of \$12,000 for the building of a road into Waipio Valley, Hawaii.

His report is one of the masterpieces of the present session. As promotional literature for the walled-in paradise of Hamakua it is without doubt a gem of the first water. It is possible the document will be given to the promotion committee with a recommendation that it be printed and distributed to the world at large.

"I maintain that the strength of a majority rests in, and should only be preserved by, its just treatment and consideration of the claims and demands of the minority," says the report. "The undersigned, it appears, has been the minority in the matter at issue from the start—a respectable minority it is true—but despite this respectability, at no time during the deliberations of your committee on this bill, even under the weight of an irrefutable argument, has the majority shown any disposition to yield from its intolerable position and view the matter to the end of meeting out justice; I therefore appeal to the Senate to reject the majority report and give favorable consideration to the claims of reason, justice and humanity, and give relief to an oppressed people, through the passage of this bill."

"Waipio is a settlement of several hundred persons, nearly all of whom are citizens of this Territory, law-abiding, God-fearing, tax-paying, industrious people. Many of the scores of families located there have lived in this valley for generations on generation, their fathers, and fathers before them, drank from the same springs, tilled the same fields and rested under the same shade trees. The place has such a natural charm in the grandeur of its scenery and the healthfulness of its climate that despite the neglect of past legislatures to provide the greatly needed medium for ingress and egress, the residents of the valley are loath to forsake it for an easier life in the sections more favored by legislative appropriations, but less favored by nature."

"Of the hundreds who have lived in this valley and later sought to live elsewhere on account of the intolerable oppression put upon its residents by legislative representatives in not providing a public wagon road into it, few seem able to remain away for any length of time, for the beauty of its crescent bay and sandy beach, the inspiring waterfalls, pouring from surrounding cliffs at heights of a thousand feet or more, the exhilarating, ozone-laden breezes, the sylvan wildwoods fringing the base of its cliffs, the fertile fields and bountiful streams haunt them in their dreams and irresistibly call them back."

"The only means of getting in or out of this productive and populous valley at the present day is over a steep and perilous trail, extremely dangerous to life and limb, especially during wet weather. This is said to be the same trail that was used by the great-grandfathers when they lived in the Kohala mountains, but it has since been much worn by time and the elements. Many long stretches are on inclines of one hundred per cent, grade, and, indeed, some stretches are even perpendicular. This trail should be preserved as a landmark, and as an example of the adversities and hardships endured by the inhabitants of the Islands in the dark ages, before the reign of prosperity, sugar kings and enlightened legislatures."

"In addition to this sound economic reason why an appropriation should be made and the road built, the humanitarian aspect should appeal strongly to any normal person in this age of refined and delicate sensibilities," continues the appeal. "All about us here in the Territory we see our fellow-men—the workmen—traveling in modern conveniences; going to and from his work and recreations in ease and comfort, on swift traveling automobiles, electric cars, bicycles and horse-drawn vehicles. Now, draw a mental picture of the poor workman at Waipio; laboriously, patiently and slowly climbing up that tortuous and dangerous trail out of the valley, burdened near to the breaking strain of human muscular fiber with a paltry dollar's worth of taro roots strapped on his back; carefully clinging to the overhanging ledges of rock he struggles upward; thick beads of perspiration stand out on his agony-furrowed brow, his hot breath comes in short, sharp gasps, his nostrils are dilated, the cords in his throat are swollen and his tongue is thick with the heat of boiling blood throbbing through his arteries, his back scorched by the knotty and galling burden strapped upon it."

"This, Senators, is a picture of the Waipio farmer taking his produce to market, to exchange for the necessities of life for his family. It rivals a picture of the galley slave of medieval times. Will you, Senators, allow such an everyday condition to continue to exist in civilized, prosperous Hawaii? These conditions can be remedied by an act of the legislature, by the passage of this bill, and in no other way."

"Shall the poor Waipio farmer continue to carry his produce out over the Pali on his back, while the legislature wrangles session after session over the propositions of raising the income tax exemption and voting thousands and thousands of funds for promotion?"

"Shall the accusation apply to you: 'Man's inhumanity to man has made countless thousands mourn?'"

"That minority report exists because the reason Senator Metzger received such a heavy vote in Waipio," said Senator Coke. "This is the first time I have realized that Waipio is an underdeveloped part of the world. For ages, however, it has been called in for lack of sufficient money to build a road. To remedy this condition and help my good friend from Hilo in his efforts to aid these good people I will vote for the passage of the bill."

DIED.

ROMOMUA—At Kalihii road, Kalihii, March 28, the eight months old son of Mr. and Mrs. D. K. Romomua.

Legislative Appeal to Congress

Whereas, a special session of the congress of the United States has been called by the President for the purpose of reducing tariff duties; and Whereas, the commercial life of the Territory of Hawaii, and its entire population, is dependent on the sugar industry in said Territory, in which industry there is at present invested more than one hundred and fifty millions of dollars; and

Whereas, the abolition or material reduction of the tariff duty on sugar will work incalculable harm to that industry, and impoverish the thousands whose savings are legitimately invested therein, or whose business or employment is dependent thereupon; and

Whereas, in the past eight years, in addition to the amount derived from taxes, it has been necessary to borrow money upon bonds of the Territory to the amount of \$6,844,000, in order to provide funds for necessary improvements; and

Whereas, out of the total annual taxes assessed upon real and personal property and upon incomes, the receipts from which for the year 1912 amounted to \$2,702,533.07, the sum of \$1,758,544.39 was paid directly by sugar estates as shown by the returns on file, being sixty-five per cent of said taxes, and there was paid by the industries directly dependent upon sugar an estimated amount of twenty per cent of the same, making an aggregate of eighty-five per cent of the entire receipts of the Territory derived from the sources above specified; and

Whereas, any substantial tariff change would deprive this Territory of said portion of its revenue, which could not be replaced from other sources, and the Territory would be unable to meet its current necessary expenses; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Territory of Hawaii, the Senate concurring:

That we do respectfully petition the Congress not to reduce the present duty on sugar; and

Resolved, Further, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

This self-explanatory resolution, presented by Representative Norman Watkins, was adopted in the house yesterday by a vote of twenty-nine to one. The one dissenting vote was recorded by Representative W. R. Kinsler, of the Oahu delegation.

COKE'S SLANT ON THE CHARTER QUESTION

From Saturday Advertiser.

Unexpected and forceful opposition from Senators Coke and Makekahu caused a flurry in the ranks of the supporters of Senate Bill 88 yesterday. This is the measure providing for the election of a charter commission for Honolulu, the commission to prepare a charter, subject to approval by the people. Provision is made for holding a series of elections if necessary, during the next two years until a charter approved by the people is selected. This in turn will be submitted to the next legislature.

Senator Makekahu declared that he believed the people should rule, that the measure proposed sought to force a charter upon the people and for that reason he would vote against it. He was followed by Senator Coke.

"I do not know of any particular call from the people of Honolulu for a new charter," said Senator Coke. "I believe this is legislation the people do not want and though I admit I have not given the measure much thought, I am proud to take a stand in opposition to its passage. It is an attempt to force the people to adopt a new charter. If the people of Honolulu signify they desire a change in the present form of government, then I am for it, but we have no right to force this legislation upon them by compelling the voters to respond every thirty days or more to express their choice on a charter until finally becoming tired and indifferent, they submit to anything which might be offered. I repeat, it is not just to pass this bill at this time; ask the people first and if they approve the legislature can act."

Judd pointed out that the legislature did not wait to hear from the people in 1907 in preparing the charter under which the affairs of Honolulu are now conducted.

Blow at Blind Pigs.

Senator Baker introduced one of the six new measures offered yesterday. It is intended to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquor. It is believed it will prove a great aid to the officers in their fight against blind pigs in the Territory. As it is now, comparatively few dealers attempt to evade the government liquor law, while in many instances local laws are almost openly defied. Under the Baker Bill the posting of a government liquor tax receipt will in itself constitute prima facie evidence that the bearer is engaged in violating the laws of the Territory, unless he also possesses a territorial liquor license.

Compliment Settlement Officers.

The health committee submitted an interesting report on the recent investigation trip to Molokai, paying a compliment to the manner in which the settlement is managed and to the ability of the physicians who are in charge of treating the sufferers there. The report described the Bay View Home, where the most advanced cases are being treated. This place is declared to be unsanitary and uninhabitable. A strong recommendation for new buildings is made and ample appropriations for the care maintenance of the settlement are urged. The report was referred to the ways and means committee.

Senator Brown's bill relating to the banking and fiduciary laws of the Territory, was deferred until next Monday. The measure carries a favorable report, but action was deferred to give the banking and other interests an opportunity to discuss its merits before final action is taken.

The judiciary committee answered the petitions of the Chinese residents of Maui by introducing a bill which will make the operation of gift enterprises of any nature in the Territory a hazardous business. Raffles, charitable bazaars, premium offers, coupon inducements to theater patrons and similar schemes now in vogue for separating dollars from a generous public will be taboo if the measure becomes a law. The penalty for a violation of the act is placed at \$1000 or six months in jail or both fine and imprisonment.

The Governor reported signing the Hawaii Audit Commission Bill and the Banana Claims Bill.

Write's bill for the relief of the food sufferers will probably be the first measure brought up during the session this morning.

The invitation of the people of Maui to have the senators visit the Valley Islands was accepted just before adjournment yesterday afternoon. About half the members will make the trip, leaving here tonight and returning late tomorrow night.

CIVIC FEDERATION WILL DO BETTER

ANNUAL MEETING BRINGS OUT SOME PLAIN REMARKS AND A DEFENSE.

When the executive committee of the civic federation held its postponed annual meeting in the public service rooms Thursday afternoon, there was some plain speaking as well as some wholesome criticism regarding the lack of activities of the federation as a whole and of the executive committee as a body.

President Arthur G. Smith presided and also acted as secretary upon the resignation of Prof. W. A. Bryan, whose resignation was regrettably accepted, as was that of Robbins M. Anderson as a member of the executive committee. There were five new members of the executive committee to elect, beside the two vacancies made by the resignations of Professor Bryan and Attorney Anderson.

Upon recommendations of the nomination committee the following were elected members of the committee: Edgar Wood, A. F. Cooke, Paul Super, A. L. MacKaye and William Kwei Fong. To fill the place in the committee of Professor Bryan, on the motion of Dr. Victor S. Clark, the election of H. Gooding-Field was made unanimous. Mr. MacKaye insisted that all members of the executive committee who did not attend meetings be dropped and new men elected and upon Doctor Clark's motion a committee was named to make nominations to take the places of the delinquents.

New Officers.

The new officers for the year elected are J. M. McChesney, president; A. F. Cooke, vice-president; C. H. Diekey, treasurer; H. Gooding-Field, secretary. Francis J. Greene spoke right up in meeting, stating that the old executive committee had not accomplished what was expected of it and was open to criticism. He believed that the resolutions and suggestions made to the committee by the 470 members of the federation should receive more attention.

President Smith replied that while he realized that there was much that could be remedied in this respect the officers of the federation had worked hard and done all that was possible under the circumstances, that while a great deal had been accomplished, especially in regard to parks and vice conditions through the committees having these matters in charge, the fact remained that it was hard to get a quorum.

Few Had Borne Burden.

Mr. MacKaye called attention to the fact that the work of the federation had been carried on as well as possible by just a few men, who had borne the burden and much of the expense, giving of their time and energy to do what was possible, but that they could not accomplish everything by themselves and all their efforts would be nullified unless backed by the full executive committee and members of the federation. Chairman George R. Carter, of the sugar protection committee, was invited to speak before the committee on the work under way for the preservation of the sugar tariff, and he made an interesting talk, joining with the committee in a discussion of the best measures to pursue.

Later the committee decided to send to certain of the civic federations on the mainland, where the representatives or senators are still uncertain in their sugar tariff doctrine, strong letters asking the assistance of the federations affiliated with that of Honolulu through the national civic federation, in this fight.

FIFTY MEASLE CASES ON S. S. WILLESSEN

(From Saturday Advertiser)

The board of immigration received a wireless yesterday from the captain of the British immigrant steamer Willelsen that there were forty-six cases of measles on board among the Spanish immigrants and four among the Portuguese. The general health otherwise of the 1400 immigrants aboard is excellent. During the voyage eighteen infants died. The vessel will arrive here Sunday morning.

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ONLY ONE FATALITY IN 39,083 VACCINATIONS

SACRAMENTO, California, March 15.—In order to learn how effective has been the present vaccination law Dr. W. P. Snow, secretary of the state board of health, has gathered statistics from local health authorities all over the state. The figures show that complications followed the vaccination of but one child out of 39,083 in the last two years and that the child subsequently died.

There have been 26,787 certificates of exemption to vaccination. 22,508 have exhibited new scars and 4680 have been vaccinated. At the same time 267,576 children have been attending school. Doctor Snow believes the discrepancy between the total who have either certified their exemption exhibited scars or have been vaccinated and the number in attendance is due rather to incomplete records than failure to enforce the law.